

Filing the FAFSA as Homeless

Federal Student Aid
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

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<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/glossary#Homeless>

- A student may file a FAFSA as homeless if...

An individual is considered homeless if he or she lacks fixed, regular and adequate housing. You may be homeless if you are living in a shelter, park, motel or car, or temporarily living with other people because you have nowhere else to go. Also, if you are living in any of these situations and fleeing an abusive parent you may be considered homeless when completing your FAFSA even if your parent would provide support and a place to live.

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- If you answer "Yes" on the FAFSA as being homeless or at risk of being homeless, you are considered to be an **independent student** and will not be required to provide information about your parents on the FAFSA.
- If you do not have a determination that you are homeless, but you believe you are an unaccompanied youth who is homeless or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless, answer "No" to the FAFSA questions concerning being homeless. Then contact your financial aid office to explain your situation.
- **Professional Judgment** refers to the authority of a school's financial aid administrator to evaluate an applicant's situation to determine if special circumstances exist. This is performed on a case-by-case basis with adequate documentation. He/she has the authority to make adjustments to the data elements on the FAFSA and to override a student's dependency status.